

Please save media ownership rules

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, the Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I am writing as a concerned citizen as well as a long-time supporter of, and contributor to, local community radio.

The FCC has a mandate to promote fair competition, diversity and local voice in today's media market. Because of this, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of the vast commercial interests that now dominate the broadcast industry. Nothing less than the underpinnings of democracy are at stake.

Media deregulation and consolidation has had a dismal effect on the diversity of American broadcast media. While there may be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented has been severely limited. Our airwaves are owned by fewer and fewer media giants, giving less and less representation to the wonderfully rich diversity of the American public. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge and consolidate further, we will lose a crucial arena for open, informed discussion of public affairs.

I urge the FCC to preserve the public interest by keeping the media ownership rules in question intact.

Also, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February of 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public. The American people have an enormous cultural and social stake in this issue, yet the discussion has been driven instead by a small number of stakeholders with the potential for enormous financial gain. I cordially invite the Commissioners to come out and discuss the ruling with ordinary people who would be most affected by it.

Thank you,

Josh Senyak